

similar one awarded to the township last year for its programs for youths.

Maine Township's Adult and Senior Services Department was created in 1985. Today, the department provides a wide range of programs and services for the estimated 40,000 adults over the age of 55 who live in Maine Township. In addition to a wide array of social activities, the township also sponsors the Senior Citizen Information and Assistance Service. The service provides a comprehensive guide to available resources including senior housing, medical services, social and mental health services, nutrition, home delivered meals, employment, energy assistance, social activities, and tax information.

In recent years the township has also placed growing emphasis on intergenerational programs that bring together seniors, children and young adults in numerous educational activities.

No programs as comprehensive as those offered to Maine's seniors could exist without the dedication of many great people. Permit me to offer a note of congratulations to the many hard-working and dedicated township officials including Supervisor Mark Thompson; Trustees Robert Provenzano, Willard "Bill" Bell, Regan D. Ebert and Carol A. Teschky; Clerk Gary K. Warner; Assessor Thomas E. Rueckert; Collector Anita D. Rifkind; and Highway Commissioner Bill Fraser.

#### THE AMERICAN FLAG—A TRIBUTE TO THE SYMBOL OF AMERICA'S FREEDOM

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 13, 1997*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the great symbol of freedom in these United States, the American flag. The American flag is nationally and internationally recognized as the symbol of the United States and all that it stands for. Today, my colleague, Congressman GERALD SOLOMON and I introduced a resolution to amend the Constitution in order to prohibit the physical desecration of the U.S. flag. I am proud to say that as of today more than 200 of my colleagues have agreed to cosponsor this important and historic piece of legislation.

For more than 200 years the American flag was the proud symbol of our great Nation. Most important, the flag was protected by law from any type of desecration. Today, though it still serves as the symbol, it is no longer protected by law. In 1989, the Supreme Court ruled in *Texas versus Johnson*, that the violent and destructive act of burning and spitting, and trampling on the U.S. flag was a form of expression which is protected by the freedom of speech. In the time since that ruling more than 49 States, including my home State of Illinois, have passed memorializing resolutions which request that Congress to ratify a constitutional amendment protecting the flag. Clearly, this body has been called upon to protect the flag from any further desecration by voting for a constitutional amendment. Deliberate desecration of the American flag is truly an insult to those who fought and died to preserve and protect the rights of all Americans. Deliberate desecration of the flag should

no longer be tolerated. That is what we seek to accomplish by introducing this important amendment.

During times of war, the flag became more than a symbol of the United States, it provided comfort and encouragement to our soldiers abroad. Though they were miles away from home, the flag reminded them of the great land and freedom that they were fighting for. The sight of the flag reinforced their strength of belief in the war they were fighting. American soldiers were reminded of the basic rights that they were protecting. The rights that don't exist in other countries; rights that make America the land of freedom that it is today.

Congressman SOLOMON and I are both committed to fighting this fight. My colleague and I believe that this amendment, which has received bipartisan support is long overdue. Americans all over the world recognize the American flag as the symbol of freedom, fairness, and equality. We must do everything in our power to have the law protect the flag from desecration. I am proud to join Congressman SOLOMON in bringing this amendment before the Congress. I hope that all of my colleagues will join Congressman SOLOMON and I, in passing this historic and important amendment.

#### SALUTING SALENA GLENN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 13, 1997*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the accomplishments of Ms. Salena Glenn who has dedicated her life to public service. For numerous years, she has strived to ensure that Brooklyn resident's concerns are heard. As chief of staff for Enoch Williams, Ms. Glenn oversees the daily operations of his office and attends community meetings of school boards, district service cabinets, and community precinct councils.

In addition to her work as chief of staff, Ms. Glenn coordinates various community projects throughout Brooklyn. Born in Orangeburg County, SC, she enjoys a reputation as a community leader. As president of the Unity Democratic Club, Ms. Glenn has worked to enlighten the central Brooklyn community about the advantages of participating in the political process.

Ms. Glenn truly serves as a shining beacon of hope for the Brooklyn community. A resident of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Ms. Glenn has a daughter Delores, and a son, Nathaniel. She also enjoys a reputation as an outstanding soloist in the Antioch Baptist Church Choir.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the many years of invaluable assistance she has provided youth and the community-at-large. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Salena Glenn.

#### CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 13, 1997*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, Los Angeles County has designated the week of February

24, 1997 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Week." In honor of this proclamation, I ask my colleagues to join me in calling attention to the tragedy of childhood cancer and in working to defeat this debilitating enemy of our children.

Cancer is the leading cause of death in the United States today. Each year, approximately 10,000 American children are diagnosed with cancer. Moreover, it is the leading cause of death by disease among children in our country. While great strides are made each year in research, treatment, and prevention of childhood cancer, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to search for cures and more effective treatments.

I ask my colleagues to reaffirm their dedication to eliminating childhood cancer and to take a moment to express their appreciation to the devoted individuals working in the fight against this dreaded disease.

#### INVOLUNTARY LIVESTOCK CONVERSION RELIEF ACT

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 13, 1997*

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to give farmers and ranchers tax relief when they need it most. I thank my colleagues, Representatives Smith, Latham, Hill, Barrett, Emerson, and Pomeroy for joining me in this effort.

As you may know, extremely harsh storms have pounded the upper Great Plains this winter. As a result, I have been flooded with calls from South Dakotans who want to know what we can do in Washington to help them deal with this horrid winter. The agricultural producers—farmers and ranchers—have been hit the hardest of all. To date, cattle losses are estimated to exceed 100,000 head. With the prospect of spring flooding eminent, further losses seem certain. While producers in the Midwest qualify for some assistance, additional relief is still needed.

The tremendous amount of snow has blocked access to feed and has limited space in livestock yards. As a result, some producers would like to sell some of their stock now. The result would be a stiff tax liability at a time when they can not afford it.

The Involuntary Livestock Conversion Relief Act will allow income derived from the sale of livestock to be deferred up to 1 year. The bill will also allow a producer to sell livestock and, within 2 years, repurchase similar livestock without realizing a gain as a result of the sale. Livestock producers must show that such a sale is not a usual business practice but is a result of floods or blizzards. The conditions have to be severe enough to trigger Federal assistance in relief of that condition.

Under current tax law a producer can do this only in drought conditions. This is why I propose changing the wording of the code to include "flood or other weather-related conditions."

I believe it is time we give ranchers some options in how they do business during a time of need. This bill represents a common-sense approach to lending our dedicated livestock producers a hand when they need it. Instead of a cash payment, the Federal Government